



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. VIII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1874.

No. 9.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The news from the Gold Coast is so conflicting that no reliance can be placed in it. However, below is the latest intelligence received by telegraph from the Seat of War:—

London, Feb. 25.—A report has reached here that a great battle has been fought at Coomassie between the Ashantees and a force under Gen. Sir Garnet Wolseley. The engagement is said to have lasted the whole day and closed with no decided result. The loss of the British troops is given at nearly 300, including many officers. The Highlanders alone are reported to have had 150 men killed and wounded. General Wolseley was said to be in need of reinforcements, which were fifteen miles off.

The War Office has received no report of the battle said to have occurred between Sir Garnet Wolseley's army and the Ashantees; but an unofficial though circumstantial despatch has reached the Admiralty Office. The battle was fought at Ackroomboo. Reported among the killed are Major Baird and Captain Buckle.

London, Feb. 25.—The despatches received yesterday, reporting a reverse to the Ashantee Expedition, caused great excitement. The grave fears which were entertained for the safety of General Sir Garnet Wolseley's army have been, however, dispelled by the receipt to-day of the following: Coomassie, February 5.—We reached here yesterday after five days' hard fighting. The troops behaved admirably. Our casualties are under 300. The King has left town, but is close by. He promises to visit me to-day to sign a treaty of peace. We hope to start on our return to the coast to-morrow. The wounded are recovering and the health of the remainder of the army is good.

(Signed,)

WOLSELEY.

A special despatch to the *Standard* says the Ashantees entirely surrounded the British army, but were eventually driven off with great loss. The principal war chief of the Ashantees was killed. The King had taken the command in person, and it was expected he would renew the attack. Feb. 5th was the date decided upon for the storming of Coomassie by General Wolseley's forces.

Further particulars of the battle between Sir Garnet Wolseley and the Ashantees say the latter fought desperately. The fight lasted from six o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon. Seventeen British officers were killed or wounded. Naval Brigade 145 strong, loss 39 men; Rifle Brigade 36 engineers and 38 men; loss of native allies not known, but very heavy.

The communications of British forces, with the rear are threatened. It is believed that another large force of Ashantees is approaching Coomassie from the south west.

The Ashantee war, just reported ended, it was calculated would cost the English about \$5,000,000. Taking into consideration however, the number of natives in the employ of the English—over 25,000 in all—it must have cost at least \$10,000,000, from which must be deducted \$1,000,000 which the Ashantees have promised to pay over. As England has—or is supposed to have—\$25,000,000 in the exchequer. The war will cause no immediate taxation extra.

It is represented that Gladstone has determined to no longer take an active part in Parliamentary proceedings. There is much speculation as to who will succeed him as head of the Opposition. The *Observer* hopes that Gladstone's determination is not final.

The action of Disraeli in limiting his cabinet to twelve members is generally approved of by the press. Gladstone's Cabinet was composed of fifteen members. Sir Charles Edward Trevelyan is to be made a Baronet; Francis John Pakenham, Secretary of British Legation at Washington, and Watson, Secretary of Legation at Copenhagen are to exchange places. The following additional appointment under the new Government are announced:—Lorp Landon is Vice President of the Council; Lord George Charles Lennox, Commissioner of Works and Buildings, and Mr. W. H. Smith, M. P., for Westminster is Financial Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir John Pakington has been elevated to the Peerage, under the title of Baron Hamilton.

Sir Bartle Freere, at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society yesterday evening, stated that after conference with Mr. Kirk, he had come to the conclusion that the report of Dr. Livingstone's death was true.

The Queen, at the request of Mr. Gladstone, has granted a pension of £1,000 per annum to the children of Dr. Livingstone.

M. Gueber and six other delegates to the Reichstag from Alsace and Lorraine, have published a manifesto repudiating Bishop Razes's acknowledgment of the Frankfort Treaty.

The Duc de Broglie has issued an order to Prefects to watch citizens who leave for Chiselhurst to do homage to the Prince Imperial on his attaining his majority.

Dr. Livingstone's remains are expected at Zanzibar about the 20th inst.

The famine in India threatens some twenty seven districts, comprising a total population of 40,000,000, twelve districts being described as almost entirely without food and water.

Twenty-eight thousand persons in the Presidency of Bengal are in distress from want of food.

It is said the English Parliament immediately on re-assembling will be prorogued till the 12th of March.

Three thousand women of New York city have offered their services to the conductors of the Union Temperance Prayer Meeting against the liquor traffic.

Severe fighting is going on in Biscay. Portugalite was to have been attacked by land and sea simultaneously, but on the arrival of the fleet it was discovered the Carlists had abandoned the town.

The disturbance in Havana is more serious than at first reported. The volunteers are unwilling to be conscripted under Spanish officers. A crowd, collected in front of the Captain-General's house, was fired upon by the troops, several lives being sacrificed.

Henry Howard, agent for Great Britain in the American and British Joint Claim Commission, has been made a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Hon. Robt. Bourke, brother of the late Earl of Mayo, has been appointed Under Secretary for the Foreign Department.

The following additional appointments of members of the new Government are officially announced—Duke of Abercorn, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; Colonel Thomas Edward Taylor, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Sir Charles Bowyer Adderley, President of the Board of Trade; George Scater Booth, President of the Local Government Board; Algernon Fulka, Egyptian Naval Admiralty; James Lovther, Under Secretary for the Colonial Department.

Asiatic cholera is raging fiercely at Buenos Ayres. The deaths from this cause number from thirty to fifty, and thousands are taking refuge in the rural districts.

When Thiers entered the Assembly at Marseilles on the 25th he was greeted with a perfect ovation from members of the Left, in consequence of his letter stating his conviction that a Republic is the only form of Government for France.

The Vendome column is rapidly approaching reconstruction. The spiral bronze has reached the seventh turn out of the twenty-two which will complete the height. The lost plate, fixed represents the attack and capture of Granzburg.

The *Semaphore* of Marseille states that the authorities have just ordered the seizure of certain letters bearing, by the side of the address, a small photograph of the Prince Imperial, with the motto "Appeal to the People." A number of visiting cards in envelopes, marked with the same likeness, have been put into circulation in the city.